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Education in Soviet Russia.

By Madame Lenin.

An Address delivered by N. K. Ulyanova at the first All-Russian Congress of National Education, held in Moscow at the end of August, 1918. Published in the periodical "Narodnoe Prosvyeshenie" (Public Instruction), No. 4-5, 1918.

The war has taken millions of people from their ordinary life and placed them in abnormal conditions in which they had to face death. This, of course, compelled them to yearn for and seek a solution to the questions which had arisen in their minds. A great craving for knowledge appeared. Then the Revolution, particularly the October Revolution, created, for the masses of toilers, problems of immense importance and difficulty. The old state of things bequeathed a sad legacy—darkness, ignorance, and the absence of the very elements of knowledge. In the work of reconstruction, the great majority of people felt at every turn their impotence through a lack of knowledge. They learnt by bitter experience that knowledge means power, and so they began passionately and irresistibly to crave for it. The sabotage of the intelligentsia showed them most clearly that knowledge had hitherto been a prerogative and monopoly of the ruling classes.

To the power of knowledge the present fertile soil of the people's life presents an unprecedented opportunity. The centre of gravity in the work of adult education has shifted. It lies no longer in the attempt to arouse the masses from their eternal sleep, to stir up in them new inquiries, but is found, rather, in the effort to satisfy, as quickly as possible, the inquiries which have been aroused, and the demands which are ripe. There is an immense work in that direction. Adult education could not thrive during the autocracy. Hundreds of regulations, circulars, and orders, fettered, maimed, and spoilt the work. The adult students was always under supervision. The authorities did all in their power to hinder any living word or thought from reaching the masses. But there has been an end to all this. The work, however, has not passed into full power. That which has been accomplished is no more than a drop in the ocean.

The whole country should be covered with a network of elementary schools for adults who can read and write, and for such as can do so only slightly. There must be no illiterates in Communist Russia. Let every one who has knowledge realise that knowledge, just as any material blessing, should not be the possession of the few, but the property of all; but, chiefly, he should use his time as far as he can to give knowledge to others. In the work of giving instruction time must not be wasted—"as much as possible is as short a time as possible" should be the method. In this connection care should be exercised to see in every case if the pupil really needs the instruction which is given. Many professional teachers adopt those methods in schools for children which they followed in schools for children. They starve their pupils with explaining children's tales, with dictation, with grammar exercises, and so forth. Both adults should at once pass to the reading of papers and pamphlets, the language of which is not difficult, to the copying out in exercise books of any articles which pleased them, to the writing down of their own ideas, to short original compositions.

One of the main tasks of the elementary school is to instruct its scholars in the use of a book as a means to acquire knowledge. The scholar should be taught how to use a dictionary of foreign words, various books of reference, encyclopaedic dictionaries, catalogues, guide books, etc. We have paid small attention to this work, yet to teach how to

handle a book that is not well understood is an extremely important task. At the same time the elementary school for adults must keep before its pupils an open vision of all the wide range of knowledge. Not only must the way be shown to the pupil; it must be made clear to him where the way leads.

The elementary school is an immense problem, but the problem of the practical school is not less important. Hitherto, applied knowledge interested mainly those who wished to get on in the world. The changed conditions, however, have achieved this result: that the most progressive workers and peasants look upon applied knowledge as a fundamental need. Knowledge of a quite special kind is required for the control and management of production, for the establishing of agricultural communes on the basis of improved management. The workers and peasants feel that without such knowledge they are unable to master the conditions of life. The character of special education must, however, be different from what it used to be. Previously a professional training sought to fit a worker for some mechanical action—to grind, to be a locksmith, to plane, and so on; but now, in

But that reform, as such, does not, of course, open the higher school to those who so far have had no education at all. To choose a particular branch of study which one might more fully pursue, it is necessary to have a more or less clear idea with regard to the branches of knowledge in existence: one must have a general education, and know the methods by which knowledge is required. Anyone entering a University without such a preliminary qualification, would soon be obliged to withdraw from it. Higher type schools should therefore give that preliminary general education to such as do not possess it. It will, of course, be of a different kind from that given in the middle school. All that is useless and mere rubbish in the curriculum of the middle school will be rejected, and all that is essential to a conscious relationship with the world will be introduced so that one might be able to fashion for oneself a carefully thought out proletarian world-view. This is essential to those who enter the higher school. Learning in its higher forms is saturated with the bourgeois spirit. The proletarian world-view will make possible a critical treatment of that learning, so that all which is valuable in it may be preserved,

ways be printed.

The cinematograph, like the school, may be a great instrument of emancipation, or of enslavement. In the bourgeois system it was a powerful means to instil into the mass bourgeois ideas and feelings. There is a cinematograph section at the Commissariat for Public Instruction. Six million roubles have been assigned to it in order that films may be produced which will suggest quite other ideas and feelings—i.e., feelings of human solidarity, internationalism, the idea of carefully organising all production in the interest of the masses of the people, and so on. Provincial cinemas will make use of these films—at present they have no suitable films, or such as deprave the soul are circulated, or, at best, such pictures as are not very harmful.

In museums a great deal has been made, so far, of Natural History, Ethnography, Hygiene, and so on. A social section has been absent. Now, however, in Moscow, at the Socialist Academy, a Social Museum has been organised. There are in it, at present, a set of colored, very artistically produced, diagrams, dealing with problems of militarism, of concentration, of manufacture, and so on. The programme of the museum is dealt with by a special commission of Socialist Communists. Colored copies of these diagrams, pictures, etc., will be prepared and sent out to the museums in the provinces.

The organisation of libraries is as important as the establishment of schools for adults. A terrible waste is going on in that sphere at present. Every union, every village, organises its own library, and a great deal of money is spent in this way. Yet these libraries are poor, and their readers are not satisfied. The scantiness of our cultural forces, and the impoverished state of the book market, should lead us to a strict economy of forces and books. Yet there is nowhere so much overlapping as in the department of library organisation. For every locality a carefully-planned network of libraries should be arranged, having a central library, or libraries, and a range of points which should be served by travelling libraries in the American style.

In library organisation a great deal is just now said about the technical side of the work. This is by no means a trivial matter. But it must not be forgotten that the most important work in a library is the selection of books. At present people who are not well informed often do the purchasing work. They choose the books by their appearance and title, or else leave the selection of books to the booksellers, who frequently go by the sale of this or that book, and do not follow the interest of the library. Even if the books are bought by the librarian himself, he is rarely a man of such education and such an encyclopaedic comprehension as to enable him to buy books according to all branches of knowledge. To help the librarian in such work there should exist "a standard catalogue." A particular Commission of Specialists is now at work at the Commissariat of Instruction to produce such a catalogue (showing the most important books in all branches of knowledge). To help local institutions to purchase books for libraries and schools there is organised a Department of Supply at the Commissariat of Public Instruction. It will supply provincial warehouses as well as separate educational institutions with books, school appurtenances and aids.

I will not deal with the place of Art in adult education. That is a big subject. There are particular departments at the Commissariat of Public Instruction—Music, Drama, Fine Arts—and the department for adult education is closely connected with them. Each of these sections has an enormous amount of work.

Continued on page 4.

The Slaughter of the Innocents.

An Appeal from Broken Hill.

Working-class Brothers, we appeal to you for assistance, to defeat the organised and legalised thieves, known as the Broken Hill Mining Companies. We are out on strike, fighting for shorter hours and higher wages, to give us and our children longer lives.

The ravages of lead poisoning (plumbism) contracted by the Broken Hill miner is simply appalling. It is common to see the Broken Hill mines fall in the city streets with lead fits. This is the average infantile death rate for the under-mentioned districts for the twelve years: Average death rate per 1000 births from and including 1907 to 1918. Figures supplied by Mr. G. H. Knibbs, C.M.G., from the Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, July 23rd, 1919.

Melbourne and Suburbs, 82.75; Sydney and Suburbs, 75.5; Adelaide and Suburbs, 72.83; Midland Division (Tasmania), 70; Eastern Goldfields (including Kalgoorlie, W.A.), 82.5; Port Curtis Division, Queensland, 74.6; Trans-Darling Plains Division, including Broken Hill, 105.583. This abnormally high infantile death rate is caused by the fathers

of the children being affected with lead poisoning through working in the Broken Hill mines.

This is what Professor Thomas Oliver, the eminent American Specialist on this disease, says about lead poisoning (plumbism):—"A large percentage of the children born of lead workers die within the first few months of life."

Comrades, we appeal to you to alter this hellish state of affairs. What right have these mine-owning capitalists to condemn us and our children to ill health and an early grave? They condemn us to those fatal dungeons (called mines), whilst they live in the midst of extreme and aggressive luxury, and use everything with the greatest extravagance; which they have not spent an hour to produce, and the working class of Broken Hill in the great mass, consisting of persons who can only support life by the hardest exertions and are compelled to live under awful and unhealthy conditions, that are a disgrace to the boasted civilization we live under.

In addition to all that, a professional training must enable the worker to understand the industry in which he is engaged in its entirety, and its place in the world market. Science must light up its particular nature, the history of the ramifications of the industry must be made known, and that must be connected with the study of the history of labor and of civilisation; light must be shed upon it from the side of economics and politics, and so forth. In short, together with purely technical methods, a professional training should give a breadth of outlook, a grasp of the conditions in which the industry developed, such as are essential to a worker who is to be a masterly creator of the commonwealth—but were not of much use to the mere wage earner.

Finally, schools of a higher type, i.e., People's Universities, must be established. The reform of the higher school has opened the door of the university to all who want it

and all that is foreign to it, which a dominant bourgeois culture has introduced, be rejected.

In close connection with adult education is the organisation of discussions and lectures, of cinematographic gatherings, excursions, and museums.

I will not dwell at length on these necessary complementary activities in adult education, but will only make a few observations about them.

Discussions, readings, lectures should answer to the immediate requirements of the masses for whom they are provided, otherwise they will fail to arrest the attention of the workers. A preliminary consideration of the subjects upon which lectures will be delivered, should be gone through with the hearers. This will prove of benefit to them. A syllabus of the lecture should, of course, al-

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RAY EVERITT, Managing Editor.

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The Moral Deterioration

(By MARCIA)

"I have taken pains neither to deride
human actions nor to deplore them nor to
detest them, but to understand them."—
Spinoza.

Such are the words that Dr. W. A.
Bonger takes, as it were, for his text in
his great work, "Criminality and econo-
mic Conditions", and well would it be for
many more of us if we were to adopt such
a motto and put it into constant practice.

To comparatively few indeed is given
the power of bestowing on society by
means of their pen the benefit of such
knowledge in the way that Dr. Bonger
has done, but whether the spark of gen-
ius burns in us or not, whether we are
able to pass on to our learning, or whether
it is decreed that we remain mute in-
glorious Miltons, we shall never be the
worse for our enlightenment; for only
those who have struggled through the
dark slough of ignorance on to the thresh-
old of the firm path of knowledge; only
those who have thrown away the smoked
glasses of superstition, hypocrisy and
cant and gaze, dazzled no doubt, but still
with unclouded vision at mankind and its
surroundings as they really are only those
can truly comprehend the wonderful dif-
ference it means, to look on men's ac-
tions and judge them in the light of a
fuller understanding.

To such of us then who have realised
our class position, the system which is
responsible for it, and the innumerable
evils in its train, the problems of to-day,
the crime, the degeneracy existing have
but one cause and one solution.

In the capitalist press now we are con-
fronted by headlines such as the follow-
ing:—

"MORALS OF LONDON."
"A Lasting Period of License."

And while different authorities would
urge various reasons for these happen-
ings, the true reason peeps out in spite
of them, although they are wilfully blind
to it.

We will quote one instance:—

"Sir Arbuthnot Lane in a recent ad-
dress at the Central Hall, Westminster,
said that doctors realised unfortunately,
that, in spite of the large amount
of moral propaganda which had been
spread broadcast on the community, it
was an indisputable fact that irregular
intercourse had greatly increased, and
that the average moral code of young
women had altered very materially for
the worse. That moral degeneration,
especially among the women, would not
disappear for a very long time, in spite
of all attempts to educate and improve

the tone of the community."—"Sun,"
Feb. 6th.

So that we see that morals are deter-
iorating in spite of "moral propaganda".
Why is this?

The doctors "recognise that mankind
is such that irregular intercourse will
take place in the future as it has done
in the past, etc." they also suggest some-
thing more than that means be taken in
order to stop the spread of disease.

Apparently they attempt to suggest no
other cause for vice than "nature," al-
though after proving that irregular in-
tercourse is the "nature of mankind,"
we find a little further on the following
significant "par."

"The moral effects of the dispro-
portion of the sexes could be seen in
the crumbling of the old ethical stand-
ards. Much of the existing unhappiness
was due to clandestine relations be-
tween single girls and married men,
and the increased number of postponed
marriages due to the high cost of liv-
ing."—"Sun," Feb. 6th.

The fact of the excess of females over
males is of course due to the abnormal
conditions caused by the war when so
many of the world's finest manhood fell
victims to the lust of its ruling class.

Murder and theft, the authorities at-
tribute "disinclination to work on the
part of returned soldiers, too frequent
visits to picture shows; and after dilating
for half a column on these two causes
and the weakness of human nature, in
general, they admit casually that UNEM-
PLOYMENT might have something to do
with it.

There is a wide difference between be-
ing disinclined for work and not being
able to obtain it.

So we see in spite of all this sophistry
the true reason for the orgy of vice and
crime which holds sway to-day is appar-
ent to those who have the intelligence or
desire to find it out.

Economic conditions have always been
responsible for the existing evils and the
fact that at the present time an abnor-
mal wave of every kind of crime and li-
cense is spreading over the world is the
result of the inferno of blood and slaugh-
ter into which it has been plunged dur-
ing the last four years.

The war fever raged, and in the name
of patriotism every kind of license was
allowed, even encouraged, morals went
to the wall, the world went mad, and now
the war is over and Peace (?) is proclaimed!!

Men who were patriots and heroes dur-
ing the war are now just ordinary wage
slaves looking for the means of subsist-
ence, and women who were told that they
would be heroines and saviours of the
Empire, if they would become mothers
under any conditions, are now spoken of
as degenerate and immoral if they con-
tinue in the same free way of living.

But starving men and women will have
food somehow, and the man robs and
murders if necessary and the woman sells
her last asset (her body)—both forced by
that iron law of necessity, as at the time
it is the only way for them to survive in
the stern struggle for existence.

And we turn from this dark picture to
Soviet Russia; there we have a people
who have obtained their freedom and are
prepared to fight to the death to keep it.
Crime is non-existent; crime is practically
unknown; what of the conditions there; prostitu-
tion; would our moralists have us
believe that the Russian people have all
grown un-natural or that they don't go
to picture shows, etc.

No matter what they would have us
believe, the great fact stands out that
crime and vice are practically wiped out
in Russia, because there is no incentive
for either.

The system is such that it creates a free
pure environment, an environment which
in its turn creates a new code of morals.
Says W. A. Bonger:—

"Upon the basis of what has gone be-
fore, we have a right to say that the part
played by Economic Conditions in crimina-
lity is preponderant and even decisive.

"This conclusion is of the highest im-
portance for the prevention of crime. If
it were principally the consequence of
innate human qualities (atavism for ex-
ample), the pessimistic conclusion that

The Death of a Red Regiment

The strongly anti-Bolshevist Jewish
daily, "Der Tag," in its issue of Septem-
ber 7, publishes a letter from its Copen-
hagen correspondent, Mr. N. Shiffrin, in
which the letter reports his interview
with the editor of the military paper of
the Russian counter-revolutionary North-
ern army, who came to Copenhagen from
the front.

"As you know, the Bolsheviks changed
the names of the old regiments. The Mos-
cow troops have on their shoulder-straps
the initials of the martyr Karl Liebk-
necht. We captured one of the Karl
Liebknecht regiments, and they were tried.
The trial at the White front is
brief: every soldier is examined, and
if he admits he is a communist he is im-
mediately sentenced to death by hang-
ing or shooting (we could not be better
than the Reds!) And the Reds are well
aware of this.

"Lieutenant K. approached the regi-
ment and addressed them in a stern and
cold manner—'Those of you who are
true Communists, show yourselves to be
courageous and step forward.'

"A painfully oppressive interval.
The captives know what this means. And
slowly, in close rank, over half
of the regiment steps forward.

"One more episode is impressed upon
my mind: the death of General Niko-
layev, one of the army commandants of
Lev Davidovich Trotsky (the editor
meaningly emphasises the name Lev
Davidovich). He was captured and con-
fessed that he was a Communist. He
was sentenced to hang himself. We pre-
pared gallows for him at Yamburg, near
the Karl Marx statue (a copy of the
Moscow statue). Nikolayev was forced
to end his life himself.

"Well, then, about the regiment,"
continued the editor. "They were sen-
tenced to be shot. But before being shot
they had to dig their own graves.

"The execution of the Communists
usually takes place during sunset, on a
field near a church. It is twilight. The
air is full of the odour of fragrant north-
ern flowers. The green dome of the vil-
lage church is seen, surrounded by sleepy
poplars, whose leaves are always rest-
less in the daytime. But in the twilight,
when there is not the slightest breeze,
the poplars seem sorrowful and stand
motionless around the wooden crosses.

A large number of onlookers have
assembled on the field; peasants, women,
children, soldiers. They stand close to-
gether, as sheep during a storm. The
condemned are first of all ordered to
take off their clothes. (The front is poor
and their uniforms are badly needed.
They are used by the White soldiers. In
order to save the clothes from getting

NOTICE!

**ON WET SUNDAYS WHEN NO
MEETING CAN BE HELD IN
SYDNEY DOMAIN, THERE WILL
BE A MEETING IN THE SYDNEY
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crime is a phenomenon inseparably bound
up with the social life would be well
founded. BUT THE FACTS SHOW
THAT IT IS RATHER THE OPTIMIST-
IC CONCLUSION THAT WE MUST
DRAW, THAT WHERE CRIME IS THE
CONSEQUENCE OF ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL CONDITIONS." (Caps mine).

This contention has, as we have said,
been borne out in Russia, the only country
which has yet freed herself from the
yoke of wage slavery, and if he wanted
any guide to our future activities we
should get it from our Russian comrades.

Science teaches us, and events have
proved, that only by changing conditions
can we do away with crime: our duty
then is to devote all our energies to that
end; gripping with renewed vigor our
banner with its slogan of NO COMPROMISE,
we preach the Social REVOLU-
TION by which the old system of filth
and villainy will be washed away and
the world cleansed for a purer and bet-
ter era for mankind.

soiled with blood or torn by bullets, the
Communists are ordered to undress be-
fore they are shot).

Slowly the condemned men take
their shirts and tying their clothes to-
gether into a bundle, one might think
that they were getting ready to battle.

"They stand there in the field, freez-
ing, and in the moonlight their skin ap-
pears extremely white, almost transpa-
rent. Each of them is given a pickaxe
and they begin digging large, common
graves.

"I remember the first thought that
came to my mind: it must be painful
to press the cold iron of the pickaxe
with one's naked feet. It must cut into
the flesh.

"It took some time before the Com-
munists had dug their own graves. After
digging for a quarter of an hour the
depth of only half a meter was reached.

"My fingers accidentally touch the
suit. I feel that my clothes are thor-
oughly wet from the dew which is fall-
ing like a mild drizzle. The grass is cov-
ered with heavy drops. The field looks
like a carpet of very small pansies with
the colors of the pupils of the human
eye. There is a tear in every eye. And
the naked Communists keep on digging.
And I was curious: how does the dew af-
fect them?

"After half an hour had passed Lieut-
enant K. ordered his soldiers to help dig
the graves. He is very nervous and
seems to be pained. The digging, wait-
ing, the whole atmosphere is so pain-
ful! The soldiers take their places side
by side with the condemned. It is get-
ting darker and darker. Gradually it
gets harder to distinguish the names
from the dressed, there is a chaos of
restlessly moving limbs. Lieutenant K.
and myself approach nearer to them.
Only now am I enabled to observe them
individually. Here are three or four
digging a common grave. I can see their
shoulders, their bodies are hidden
in the ditch.

"At last the graves have already the
necessary depth. The condemned sit
from weariness. Many of them thrust
themselves on the soft wet ground, and
rest. It is their last repose. Only now
I notice that many of them have their
feet bandaged. They have already been
wounded in the struggle.

"Nervously and incoherently, as if
were stuttering, Lieutenant K. asks
them to state their last wish. Two of
them ring off their fingers and give them
to the Lieutenant. He takes their last
dresses. Both of them are from Petro-
grad. One of them has a family re-
siding on the Aptekarsky Island, the
other leaves a wife residing on Goro-
hovaya. The others have no wishes to
make, although every one of them has a
home, a wife, children, relatives. They
feel as if they had been dead long ago.
I cannot explain otherwise their abso-
lute calmness and indifference, a typical
Russian indifference.

"I asked one of them, what made a
Communist of you? In a peculiarly cold
and stiff manner he replies: 'The ac-
ursed life! The world needs happiness!'

"The soldiers are holding their rifles
ready to shoot. The naked Communists
take the positions close to one another,
forming a white wall in the moonlight.
A command is heard, followed
by a flash, and the sound of shooting.
The Communists are still stand-
ing erect.

"A second volley is heard. The bul-
lets strike some into their hearts. Thick
blood streams leap into space. But most
are slightly wounded. And in the frac-
tion of a second, before the soldiers
shoot again I hear deeply sickly sighs.
Volleys follow one after another. They be-
come less and less. Now those who are
still alive cry out: 'Hey there, take bet-
ter aim!' Some point to their heart: aim
here. And blood is flowing.

"Finally, all are dead. Some are lying
near the edges of the graves, the others
have already fallen into the ditches. It
is all over. Nothing disturbs the quiet."

—From "Data."

The Italian Communists

The growth of a revolutionary outlook and activity amongst the workers of Italy, as indicated in the December general elections, was briefly hinted at in the cable news in the local press. Special communications to the "I.S." confirm the cables, and we are now able to give, with tolerable completeness, the position of the revolutionary socialists.

Preferential voting was in force, and there were six parties in the field—Liberals (Jingoes), Radical, Clericals, Republicans, Reform Socialists and Revolutionary Socialists. Elections at Trento and Trieste are yet to be held.

The outstanding feature of the elections is that the Revolutionary Socialists not only maintained their strength in Northern Italy, but made very definite progress, while, on the other hand, in southern Italian districts dominated by the Roman Catholic Church, the Revolutionary Socialists must still be regarded as a negligible quantity, so far as voting strength is a measure. The Revolutionary Socialists, generally known as Official Socialists, made Bolshevism and a Soviet Government their rallying cry, and were bitterly opposed by all other parties from the Jingoes to the Reform Socialists. The veteran Socialist, Giuseppe Turati, stated in a speech at the declaration of the poll at Milan, that he believed the election results constituted a negation of the Versailles Peace Treaty, and a triumph for Bolshevism.

The position of the various parties at the 1913 and 1919 elections was—

	1913	1919
Liberals	310	179
Radicals	73	39
Clericals	29	100
Republicans	17	8
Reform Socialists	27	27
Revolutionary Socialists	52	156

The City of Bologna, with a population of about 400,000, elected seven Revolutionaries and one Clerical; Venice, 23 Revolutionaries, 18 Clericals, 12 others; Venice, 3 Revolutionaries, 3 others; Turin, 18 Revolutionaries, 19 others; City of Florence, 5 Revolutionaries and 4 others; Rome, 4 Revolutionaries, 11 others; Naples, the largest city in Italy, returned 2 Revolutionaries, 17 of other parties, and the Syndicalist Arturo Labriola. South from Naples the Clericals are dominant, as Calabria, 23 Clericals and Ministerialists, Revolutionaries nil; while Sicily with an impoverished population of four millions, elected no Socialists, 13 Reformers, and 39 other parties, and Sardinia, 12 non-Revolutionaries. Whoever has an understanding of the mental servitude of the people of Southern Italy and Sicily will not be surprised by the large clerical vote, while the clear distinction between Reform and Revolution is decidedly pleasing to note.

"Le Populaire," of December 7th, quotes an open letter, dated October 29, sent by Lenin to the Italian comrades after the Bologna Congress, and published in "Avanti" of December 5th. In it Lenin congratulates the Italian Socialists on their decision to participate in the Parliamentary elections, and says that this example must have a great effect on the whole world; particularly, he hopes, on the German Communists, who split on the question at the time of the elections to the National Assembly. He goes on: "It is possible that England and France, aided by the Italian bourgeoisie, will attempt to provoke the proletariat in order to crush its activity; the better; but you will not be tricked by this manoeuvre. The marvellous work already accomplished by the Italian Communists is a guarantee that they will succeed in winning over to their cause the whole of the industrial and agricultural proletariat, and, in addition, the small proprietors. The dictatorship of the workers will then be definite. Another guarantee of our triumph is the progress made by the Communists in France and England."

The Danger of the Whitley Scheme.

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WHY DON'T YOU RETURN HOME? TO THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH SOLDIERS.

Comrades!

The war is over, why are you not returning home? The people in England and America went nearly mad with joy when the long hoped for peace at last arrived. But why is there no peace for you, and for us? President Wilson and his colleagues are in Europe, the other Allied governments have also appointed their delegates, and soon the Peace Conference will assemble. But in the meantime you are still condemned to fight and die, and war with all its horrors is raging in Russia.

For many long, weary agonising months, perhaps years your old folks, your wives, your little ones have been overwhelmed with anxiety about you. Now in their innocence their anxiety has been turned into joyful expectation of your return. Can you not picture them every knock, every footstep they hear makes their hearts leaps in the belief that it is someone bringing tidings of your home-coming. But your dear ones will wait in vain, your masters continue to drive you through the valley of death, and you do not know, but that your bodies may rot in the mud and blood of the battlefield. Don't you want to mingle with your loved ones again?

The war is over. Why don't you go home?

For over four years your governments have kept you at war, and have condemned millions of your fellow citizens to death, and millions more to a fate worse than death. You made these fearful sacrifices for what you were led to believe to be the defence of Europe against the domination of the Kaiser, and once and for all to relieve the world from the crushing burden of armaments; from the menace of Prussian militarism.

Well, this menace is removed. Prussian militarism is crushed. The Kaiser is a fugitive. The German workers have risen in revolt and have delivered a death blow to the power of the reactionary Junker class.

Why then are you still fighting? Above all, why are you in Russia?

The help of the Allied governments against Germany was never desired by Russia. It is now quite unnecessary. It was never intended that the Allied troops in Russia were to fight Germans. This is perfectly obvious now since the war with Germany is apparently over, and yet the war against the Russian people still continues. Why? The reason is not far to seek.

The workers and peasants in Russia have done what your rulers fear you will do; they have swept the whole class of parasites, courtiers, landlords, and capitalists out of power, and have taken possession of the land and the means of production for the use of the whole people. The Russian people refuse to be slaves of an idle class any longer. They are constructing a new order of society in which the products of labor will go to those who work. The spirit which animates the Russian people has spread westward, and now the Austrian, Hungarian and German people have overthrown their rulers, and are rapidly travelling along the same lines as the workers of Russia. It is the awakening of the real democracy that we are witnessing to-day: The common workers in field, factory, and mine are asserting their right and power to rule, and be masters of their own destiny.

Your masters see that the spirit of revolt is spreading to your countries. In both England and America the idea of Bolshevism is making rapid headway. Great Labor demonstrations frequently take place at which the workers demand that the means of wealth production shall be taken over by the workers. At these meetings strong protests are expressed against the invasion of Russia. Your masters know that the source and centre of the revolutionary World movement is Russia, and they are determined therefore to crush it out, and remove the menace to their power. That is why you are here. That is why your masters will not permit you to rejoin your loved ones

News from Siberia.

(We are indebted to Comrade Peter Siminoff for a translation of a letter from Comrade Popoff, dated at Vladivostok, on November 26, 1919. Popoff left Australia in 1917 for Russia, and in this letter gives an indication of the part played by the Allies, the Japanese and the Americans, as counter-revolutionaries).

I wish to say a few words about what we are undergoing here, and through what I went and what I have seen during the last eighteen months. A month after our landing here another upheaval took place. The work of the Russian and international bourgeoisie brought reactionaries complete success. They managed to fool the Chechs to their side, and together with them accomplished successful insurrection, the result of which was the establishment of the power of the supreme ruler Kolchak on the one hand, and the foreign invasion on the other. And you, comrades, could not imagine what misfortune brought the one and the other. The reactionary activities of Nicholas Romanoff faded into insignificance in comparison with what Kolchak and his henchmen are performing in Siberia. The punitive expeditions of Rennenkampf, Orloff and of other generals of the Tsar were only playthings in comparison with what the Japanese are doing here now. The Japs burned down three-fourths of the villages in the Amur region. This is not over-estimation. And they not merely burned down villages, but at the same time exterminated half, or even more, of the population, irrespective of age. It is impossible to describe all. I am only mentioning a very few things taken at random. Burning people alive, encircled with heaps of dry shrubbery, is a common occurrence. The Japs displayed wonderful skill in devising all kinds of torture. Rape is not considered a criminal act by them. All those in whom self-respect did not die, are joining the forces to fight these barbarians from islands. Everywhere, up to the obscurest corner, all over the Far East, our comrades are dying in fighting for their human rights, and the rights of citizenship. Hundreds of them are perishing in an unequal struggle against the "cross-eyed," just to be replaced by others, and the hour of victory and reward is not far.

But an even more filthy part is being played here by the Americans. According to the promises of those who sent them here, they came to turn Siberia into America, but all their activities are only devoted to supporting the Japs, or, as it is said here, the Japs are plundering and the Americans are guarding the spoils.

The mountains and the forests are full of insurgents, or Reds, in spite of the most brutal measures being taken against them. Their numbers and their daring are growing. With the advance of the Soviet forces their activities are growing even more. They, too, of course, don't kid themselves with the Japs—they don't take prisoners.

This is the atmosphere we live in.

On the 17th November there was an

who are eagerly looking forward to your return.

You see that the war has now been converted into a gigantic conflict between Labor and Capital. It is a conflict between Progress and Reaction. A conflict between those who are inaugurating a new era of social and economic liberty for the toiling masses, and those who desire to retain the present sordid commercial system, with its sweating, poverty, and war. And you who obey the orders of your governments are fighting to maintain the old order, you are fighting on the side of Reaction against the forces of Labor and Progress.

Is this worth dying for? Do you really desire to bleed and die in order that capitalism may continue? Say no.

Form Soldiers' Councils in each regiment, and demand of your governments, demand of your officers to be sent home. Refuse to shoot your fellow workers in Russia—refuse to crush our Workers' Revolution.

The Group of English Speaking Communists.

insurrection here, but, thanks to the Japs, it was suppressed, and the result was, of course, arrests and shooting. The corpses were lying in the streets of the city for several days, and outside of the city it was even worse. In brief, we are enduring things which we thought were gone for ever.

The Chechs, Austrian war prisoners, after the conclusion of peace between Russia and Germany, expressed their desire to go on with the war against their own country on the French front. The Council of the People's Commissars consented to their desire and directed them toward Vladivostok. But when they were spread all along the Siberian railway line, they went into the uprising. Of course, they did not take place without their paying for it. They lost half of their numbers, and won the quite justified indignation of the toiling masses, and flowers of praise from the bourgeoisie. At the present time the great majority of the remaining regret their action, and the uprising of the 17th November was initiated by them.

Side by side with this the speculation ("profiteering") has reached an unthinkable level. The notes of the Kolchak government are of very bad workmanship, and it is not difficult to forge them, which make things even worse. The prices are, for instance: 1 pound of meat, 17 roubles (the pre-war rate of the rouble was 2/1), a dinner, about 200 roubles; bread from 6 to 7 roubles a pound, and we expect it will be shortly 25 or 30 roubles. A pair of boots cost about 4000 roubles. In short, the 25 and 50 rouble notes are now just what used to be the 10 and 20 kopek (cent) coins.

These are briefly the conditions we live in under the guardianship of the hired murderers of the Allies, only thanks to whom exists the head of the adventure, Kolchak. But the days are closing. They have done too much evil. Even those who welcomed them twelve months ago are now becoming their enemies.

Most of those who came from Australia are either in jails or in hiding, or expecting at any time to be arrested. I was also deported from the circle of the fortifications. Basharinoff has undergone imprisonment; Alamsky in hiding, Savinkoff in Tomsk—in jail; Utkin, Bruchanoff and Jordan have been in jail from the very beginning of the counter-revolution. Even Angarsky and Skvirsky got into a trouble. (These two "Socialists" were fighting the Bolsheviks with the Allies).

The orders of mobilisation are issued almost every day, but not many volunteer to obey them. So it is necessary to round them up. The army formed in such a manner cannot be reliable, of course. At the first opportunity the men will pass to the other side. In short we are waiting for the final crisis and try to bring it nearer. Greetings to all our comrades.

There were here Englishmen, Frenchmen and Italians, but they all are gone. The wages are from 120 to 400 roubles a day, but we are living in hunger. And yet it is more interesting to be here than in Australia.

THE PASSING OF THE S.P. OF AMERICA.

Before the war the membership of the Socialist Party of America was over 100,000. "The Eye Opener," organ of the Party, now claims only 30,783. The latest news from the States tells of a referendum about to be taken by the Finnish Federation, with a membership of 10,000, on a question of withdrawing from the Socialist Party of America.

THE COMMUNISTS OF U.S.A.

The Communist Party of America claims that it now has reached 50,000 dues-paying members; the first number of the party's new monthly, "The Communist International," consisting mainly of articles on the theoretical basis of Socialism, was published in December. The Communist Party has planned to gain the support of the Finnish Federation, lately of the Socialist Party, by means of a newspaper in the Finnish language.

Does the "I.S." suit you? Do you think it is doing good work, Do you wish to see the good work continue, If so, show your appreciation and assist by getting subscribers.

EDUCATION IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

Continued from front page

Into what all this might develop can be judged, for instance, from a perusal of Romain Rolland's book, "The National Theatre."

Let me say, in conclusion, a few words about People's Halls. Among us in Russia these People's Halls have mostly had a pitiful existence, even degenerating into mere tea-houses. In fact they are becoming that which they themselves are centres of spiritual life for the whole population. That is what the People's Halls in Europe are getting on to do. In fact they are the place of the people that will take the place of the existing Public Halls and Churches.

All the places of Adult Education will fully develop only when with a constructive and direct participation in the work will be overlaid by the people's education. When they are, they will be the place of the people's education. When they are, they will be the place of the people's education. When they are, they will be the place of the people's education.

And what is the result? It should be not only in the hands of the people, but in the hands of the people. It should be not only in the hands of the people, but in the hands of the people. It should be not only in the hands of the people, but in the hands of the people.

N. K. KRYANOVA (Mme. Lenin)

A.S.P.

NEWS AND NOTES

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Sydney Branch held its usual meeting in the Dominion on Sunday, February 8th. Comrades Reardon, Mrs. Reardon, and Thomas occupied the platform, and spoke to a large interested audience. Paper sales were brisk, and literature sold well.

Com. O. Blane filled the platform on Sunday night, the title of his lecture being "An Hour With Zola."

The speaker dealt with Zola's life and quoted extracts from some of his works, and the audience had an interesting evening.

The Branch is making preparations for a vigorous campaign during the State elections. At the last Branch meeting nominations were called for candidates to contest three electorates, with the following results:—

Comrade G. Nelson for Balmain.

Comrade Mrs. Reardon for Eastern Suburbs.

Comrade M. J. Thomas for Sydney.

These, of course, are sent on for endorsement to the C. E.

The Branch intend to have numbers of leaflets printed for distribution, and in this way, as well as by meetings, hopes to do much valuable propaganda.

M. REARDON.

WHITLEY COUNCILS IN ENGLAND.

The British capitalist and "the community" recently had a celebration to mark the establishment of the fifth Whitley Council in England. Up to date 50 councils and 24 interim industrial committees, representing 3,500,000 workers, have been set up. The most recent application to the Minister of Labor for a "joint industrial council" is from both branches of the amusement profession.

Funds Wanted.

The Party having decided to put a number of Organisers in the field, requires the financial assistance of ALL Branches, Members and Supporters.

Funds are wanted right NOW, and all Donations should be sent to the General Secretary, A. S. P., 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.

ON SALE NOW!

What is Russia?

By Peter Simonoff.

Price 2/-, posted 2/1.

Wholesale rates to book stalls, branches, etc., 1/8 per copy. Send all orders to 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.

Class Dictatorship.

By J. M. G.

"Political power, properly so-called, is merely the organised power of the class for oppressing another." (Communist Manifesto). To the students of sociology who go below the surface and "dialectically" examine all the phenomena of human societies, not being misled by the claptrap of the apologists of the possessing class with their platitudes of democracy, liberty, equality, justice, it is as clear as noonday that any form of society resting upon class divisions must necessarily be a class dictatorship, a dictatorship of that class in control of the land and tools necessary for the production of the necessities and luxuries required by the community as a whole.

Political power is necessary to the class in economical possession. It is "the organised power or one class for oppressing another." It is the material weapon for enforcing their will upon the unpossessing class, when that class revolts by striking or otherwise for ameliorations such as shorter hours or higher wages. The capitalists as a class have no delusions on the score of political action. They recognise the necessity of controlling the machinery of the political State, to have it under their control to enforce their dictatorship. As a class they recognise the class struggle and the antagonism that exists owing to their control of the economic forces. To maintain their dictatorship they use all the means within the political State to distort the egoism of the masses by insidious methods, their hirelings functioning in all departments of social life for that purpose.

Their parliamentary hirelings prate of the glories of our constitution, its freedom and equity. If pushed they will admit the need for a few alterations here and there just to make it a little more perfect, and individually appeals to the voters to send him there, as he is the one and only one that is capable of giving the final touch to the constitution, that will make our perfect system still more perfect. The hirelings of the Church preach the dope of contentment in a vale of tears. They instill the idea that things material don't matter; the more suffering on earth the greater reward in the sweet by-and-by.

The slimy press is made good use of by the possessing class. Having control of the cable and other means of conveying news from all parts of the world, the newspaper hirelings distort the news in the interest of their economic masters, giving those half truths that are more dangerous than deliberate lies, and by their leading articles instilling false ideas—so-called public opinion—that is a distortion of facts, creating a psychology in favor of things as they are and in opposition to the best interest of the masses. Industrial misleaders doing the dirty work of the capitalist class, many of them conscious of their actions, prating of mutual interests where none exist, and generally by their tactics assisting in distorting the egoism of the workers whose best interests they are paid to serve.

This recognition of the antagonisms that exist in society by class ownership compels the possessing class to utilise all means within society to maintain their dictatorship, from methods of insidious flattery along the lines of the dignity of labor to material forces to keep the workers in subjection. Nothing is neglected that can be used to distort the egoism of the masses and perpetuate the system of society that it the most hypocritical that has ever existed in the history of humanity.

In view of the undoubted fact of the capitalist class maintaining their dictatorship by using all and every means within society, the lesson to the working class is that to combat

ECONOMIC CLASS.

Members and supporters are urged to attend the Economic class, which is held in the A.S.P. Hall, Liverpool Street, EVERY MONDAY EVENING, AT 8 P.M. Comrade J. M. G. in charge of the Class.

A.S.P. Hall

Liverpool St.

Lecture every Sunday

that dictatorship no means should be neglected to weaken the stranglehold of the capitalist class upon society.

The capitalist class is conscious of all that is implied in the Marxian phrase, "every class struggle is a political struggle." And the workers will also have to recognise all that is implied in the phrase. Unfortunately, in the past the political aspect of the struggle has been ignored, or used in such manner as stultified the use of it. "No politics" has been the cry of the craft trade union movement, and was perfectly in keeping with the basic structure of such form of organisation, an organisation sectional and ignoring that working class consciousness that is necessary to give revolutionary political action, action that should give expression by attacking the capitalist class on all fronts, neglecting no point.

The need of this class consciousness is being forced upon the workers by the economic development of the past few years. It is finding expression in closer union and industrial action. The workers more and more are realising the power of the capitalist press as a means of disseminating false news, and are in many centres taking action by refusing workers in the printing shops to be a party to capitalistic tactics, and are in many instances setting up their own controlled press. They are beginning to recognise the value of education being controlled by themselves, as is evidenced by the economic classes that have sprung up in many industrial centres, in addition to the several Labor colleges, one of which has just been opened in Dublin in memory of James Connolly.

These educational efforts are necessary to combat the distortion of history given by the capitalistic controlled schools. Parliamentary action, that phase of political action that has and still continues to be the bone of contention is coming more and more to be discussed. The value of it is being accepted by a growing number of workers, a value that is recognised not for the sake of perpetuating parliaments, nor yet for the purpose of attempting to reform the present system through its decrees, but for the purpose of fighting the class war at all points within the political State.

The capitalist class dictatorship must go, and the best tactics are those that neglect nothing that will be useful to the working class as propaganda and education. The feudalistic semi-capitalistic dictatorship in Russia has given place to the dictatorship of the workers and peasants. In their struggles the workers and peasants in that country made use of all methods, including parliamentary action. The Bolsheviks made use of it to a greater extent than any other party in the world.

The dictatorship of the capitalist must go, and give place to the dictatorship of the working class. "A period of political transition, during which the State can be nothing other than the revolutionary dictatorship of the proletariat," during which will be "swept away the conditions for the existence of class antagonism and of class generally, and will thereby have abolished its own supremacy as a class." (From "Marx on The Gotha Programme.")

TO UNATTACHED SUPPORTERS.

Whoever you are, if you believe in Scientific Socialism, you must recognise the need for organisation. Why not set a good example to the workers whom you come in contact with, and whom we know you try to educate, by joining up with the A.S.P.

If there is no BRANCH in your locality, you can become a MEMBER AT LARGE, and thus become a REAL LIVE WIRE.

For further information, drop a line to the General Secretary, A.S.P., 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney.

PAMPHLETS YOU SHOULD READ.

Economic Warfare. By W. E. Winspear, 6d, posted 7d.

What Means this Strike. De Leon, 3d, Socialism the Goal of Civilization. Chas. Vail, 2d, posted 3d.

Towards Human Freedom. J. R. Wilson, 1d, posted 2d.

Wage, Labor and Capital. Marx, 3d, posted 4d.

CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS. WHOLESALE RATES ON APPLICATION TO THE MANAGER.

NEWCASTLE DEBATE.

During the Senate Election campaign, Mr. E. E. Judd, of the S.L.P., challenged the A.S.P. to debate the question: "That the S.L.P. was the only scientific revolutionary Socialist Party in Australia with a clean record." He stated that the debate must take place in Newcastle.

About 12 months ago the A.S.P. challenged the S.L.P. to debate the question: "That the S.L.P. does not stand true to Marxian principles," but the latter refused. However, the A.S.P. does not quibble over time or place, and immediately accepted the challenge issued by Judd. We had hoped that the debate would have eventuated before this, but details were left in the hands of the secretaries of the Newcastle branches of both organisations. Owing to the Newcastle S.L.P. secretary refusing to have anything to do with the matter, Comrade Murphy communicated with the C.E., and asked them to arrange the affair with Judd, as apparently the Newcastle S.L.P. were not in favor of the debate taking place.

Comrade Reardon, who was selected by the C.E. to represent the A.S.P., interviewed Judd personally, and the debate is arranged to take place in Islington Park, February 15th, at 2.30 p.m.

Since the above was written, the Newcastle A.S.P. decided to take the same stand as the S.L.P. branch, and carried the following resolution:—

"That this branch of the A.S.P. deprecates the carrying out of the debate between Messrs. Judd and Reardon in Islington Park on Sunday next, 15th Feb., as being against the best interests of the Socialist movement, aimed at keeping Socialists divided. We refuse to participate morally or financially in such a fiasco as to participate would be waste of energy and money, and that could be better spent carrying propaganda with Socialism as its aim." Signed on behalf of the Newcastle branch A.S.P.

J. MURPHY, per H. SPENCER WOOD. We cannot understand this somersault, seeing that the debate was taken up by the C.E. at the request of the Newcastle branch. However, THE DEBATE WILL TAKE PLACE NEXT SUNDAY, FEB. 15th. Arrangements are being made by party organiser, E. A. Sinclair. Newcastle comrades should make sure of attending, for they will then realise that so far as our side is concerned it is a case of propaganda, no matter what the other side do.

The Australian

Socialist Party



OBJECTIVE.

The Social ownership and control of the means of production and distribution

HEADQUARTERS:

115 GOULBURN ST., SYDNEY, N.S.W.

A. S. REARDON, Gen. Sec. Treas.

BRANCH DIRECTORY.

Any Branch desiring matter published under the above heading, should write clearly what is needed, and forward same to this Office.

-:-:-

BROKEN HILL.

Socialist Hall, Sulphide St.

All rebels making their way to the "MH" will receive a welcome at the above address. Good Library for Members.

-:-:-

GOULBURN BRANCH.

75 Saunders St., Goulburn.

Business Meeting, 1st Wednesday in each month.

Economic Class, every Sunday, at 10.45 a.m. 8 p.m.

Classes and Meetings held 72 Saunders St. John F. Hart, Hon. Sec.

-:-:-

CORRIMAL.

Rebels on the South Coast, come along and link up with a scientific working-class organisation. A welcome awaits you.

Meetings every week Sunday, 2 p.m. E. R. BROWNE, Secretary.

Railway Street, Corrimal.

Printed and Published by William Joseph Thomas, at 115 Goulburn Street, Sydney, 10: the Australian Socialist Party.